

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Friday will attend a ceremony celebrating a land swap between Seaside, the U.S. Army and the Fort Ord Reuse Authority.

The ceremony will mark the end of nearly seven years of negotiations between local, state and federal agencies on the final allocation of large parcels of land at the former Fort Ord. Seaside will receive land for commercial development, and both the city and Army will use land for housing.

"I'm pleased that years of intense negotiations have resulted in agreements that will benefit our communities and provide the Army with the housing and services it needs," said Rep. Farr. "This sort of cooperation is a great example for neighborhoods around the country who have seen their bases closed."

Following the shuttering of Fort Ord in 1992, the Army agreed to transfer the "Stillwell Kidney" area to city control. That agreement was amended after the Army decided it needed the parcel of land, and a modified agreement was signed that will transfer land of equal value to the city.

Much of the transfer revolves around housing. Seaside gains land and water to develop at least 110 affordable housing units. The Army will build at least 140 affordable housing units and not more than 150 market-rate housing units. Land will also be made available for a park and for an American Youth Hostel facility.

"This is the best possible solution," said Rep. Farr. "We desperately need more affordable housing on the peninsula, and Seaside will benefit from the commercial revenue. This exchange is a win-win for everyone."

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